Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) A method of doing business in which the cost of a component, service or process is established by:

using a computerized process that includes data bases from which aspects of the cost are capable of being determined, provided [best in class] lowest cost potential design, lowest cost potential manufacturing practices, lowest cost potential supply chain management techniques, lowest cost potential labor rates, lowest cost potential uptimes and lowest cost potential yields are utilized~~, can be determined~~;

generating reports from said computerized process that include details of each aspect of the cost;

providing the reports to prospective suppliers of the component or service;

conducting discussions, with the prospective suppliers of the component or service, in an effort to gain concurrence on the fact basis of what the cost of the component, service or process ought to be;

conducting fact based discussions, with prospective suppliers of the component or service with whom concurrence on the cost has been reached, in an effort to reach an agreement on ~~what the a price of~~ a price for the component, service or process ~~will be~~ based on what the cost of the component, service or process ought to be ~~to enable both the buyer and seller to prosper as world class businesses~~.

2. (Currently amended) In a ~~networked~~ computerized system, a method of determining what the cost of a part or service ought to be ~~provided world class practices, processes, labor rates, uptimes and yields are used~~, the method comprising:

establishing databases of cost components for producing parts and services that ~~will~~, when totaled, ~~be~~ is what the cost of the part ought to be provided the ~~best~~ lowest cost potential design, lowest cost potential manufacturing practices, lowest cost potential supply chain management techniques, lowest cost potential labor rates, lowest cost potential uptimes and lowest cost potential yields are followed;

providing a database interface for the database that ~~will allow~~ allows remote access by one or more users;

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establishing a set of computer screens, including input fields into which cost components are capable of being ~~can be~~ inputted either directly or through menus that display options from said database that are capable of being ~~can be~~ selected, each screen concentrating on a cost area such as material, labor, capital, manufacturing and overhead;

totaling the inputted figures and rates for each screen, make any necessary calculations and store the subtotal for each screen; and

totaling all of said subtotals, yielding a lowest cost potential that ~~which~~ is the ought to be cost of the part or service.

3. (Currently amended) [In the] The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the following further step is performed:

printing out a report for a screen describing the components of the screen and the inputted amounts and the subtotal for the screen.

4. (Currently amended) [In the] The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the following further step is performed:

printing out a report for all screen describing the components of each screen, the inputted amounts for each component, the subtotal for each screen and a total for all screens.

5. (Currently amended) A computer system for determining what the cost of a part or service ought to be ~~including a computer system accessible on a network to authorized users of the network~~, said computer system ~~comprising;~~ comprising:

a computer program ~~that;~~ that has fields into which cost data is capable of being ~~can be~~ ~~manually~~ entered, ~~can interface~~ is capable of interfacing with a database or databases and is capable of being ~~can be~~ accessed by one or more users, said computer program being programmed to perform computations on data that has been ~~imputed~~ input manually or from a database;

a database[[,]] that ~~can interface~~ is capable of interfacing with said computer program, the database containing cost components for parts;

~~a set of~~ one or more computer screens for said computer program including input fields into which lowest cost potential cost components are capable of being ~~can be~~ inputted and menus that display list of selectable cost components from said database ~~that can be selected, each screen concentrating on a cost area such as material, labor, capital, machining or overhead~~;

~~said computer program having the capability to total all inputted cost components, make any necessary calculations and store the subtotal for each screen; and~~

said computer program having the capability to total all lowest cost potential cost components and make any calculations, yielding ~~of said subtotals which is~~ the ought to be cost of the part or service.

6. (Currently amended) [In a] The computer system as set forth in claim 5 wherein the computer program has the capability to print out a report for a screen describing the components of the screen, the inputted amounts and the subtotal for the screen.

7. (Currently amended) [In a] The computer system as set forth in claim 5 wherein the computer program has the capability to print out a report for all screens describing the components of each screen, the inputted amounts for each component, the subtotal for each screen and a total for all screens.

8. (Currently amended) A method of using a computer to develop a factual report ~~that will be~~ used in fact driven discussions with a supplier in an effort to establish what the cost of [the] a part or service ought to be, comprising the steps of:

identifying and quantifying the cost components of a part or step of a process that, when totaled, determine what the cost of the part or process ought to be provided the [best] lowest cost potential design, manufacturing practices, supply chain management techniques, labor rates, uptimes and yields ~~are followed~~;

inputting into the computer [all] the cost components that are necessary to determine what the cost ought to be for each component of the part or step of the process;

totaling [all] the cost components and making [all] necessary calculations for each part or step in a process and recording this as ~~a subtotal~~ an ought-to-be cost;

~~totaling all of said subtotals, which is what the cost ought to be, for the part or process provided the best design, manufacturing practices, supply chain management techniques, labor rates, uptimes and yields are followed;~~

outputting from the computer program a report that specifies the cost of each part or process and how each component of this cost was established; and

utilizing this report in cost driven discussions with a supplier to obtain an agreement with the supplier to provide parts or services at a price that is based upon the ought-to-be cost.

9. (Currently amended) A method of using a computer to facilitate identifying and quantifying cost components of a part or service, the total of which is what the cost ought to be ~~provided the best design, manufacturing practices, supply chain management techniques, labor rates, uptimes and yields are followed~~, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a computer program that ~~can interface~~ is capable of interfacing with a database, said computer program being available on a network that ~~will allow~~ allows remote access by one or more users;

establishing a database that interfaces with said computer program, the database containing ~~fact based~~ fact-based cost components that are needed to calculate what the cost ought to be provided the [best] lowest cost potential design, lowest cost potential manufacturing practices, lowest cost potential supply chain management techniques, lowest cost potential labor rates, lowest cost potential uptimes and lowest cost potential yields ~~are followed~~;

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establishing a set of computer screens for said computer program including input fields into which component cost is capable of being ~~can be~~ inputted and menus that display options of component cost from said database, each screen concentrating on a cost area such as material, labor, capital, manufacturing and overhead;

providing said computer program with the capability to total all inputted cost components, make any necessary calculations and store the subtotal for each screen; and

providing said computer program with the capability to total all of said subtotals which is the ought-to-be cost of the part or service.

10. (Currently amended) [In the] The method of using a computer as set forth in claim 9 wherein the following further step is performed:

printing out a report for a screen describing the components of the screen, the inputted amounts and the subtotal for the screen.

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11. (Currently amended) [In the] The method of using a computer as set forth in claim 9 wherein the following further step is performed:

printing out a report for all screens describing the components of each [[scree]] screen, the inputted amounts for each component, the subtotal for each screen and a total for all screens.

12. (New) The computer system of claim 5, wherein the computer system is accessible from a network by authorized users of the network.

13. (New) A method comprising the steps of:

determining a design for a part;

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determining a lowest cost potential for at least two manufacturing factors for manufacturing the part, wherein the at least two manufacturing factors include at least two of: manufacturing practices to manufacture the part, supply chain management techniques to supply the part, labor rates to make the part, uptime for equipment utilized to manufacture the part, yields of manufacturing the part, overhead, freight, and equipment utilized to manufacture the part;

combining at least the lowest cost potential for the at least two manufacturing factors, yielding an ought-to-be cost for the part.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of conducting discussions over the ought-to-be cost for the part with one or more prospective suppliers of the part in an effort to reach an agreement a price to pay a chosen supplier for the part.

15. (New) A method comprising the steps of:

determining a design for a part;

determining a lowest cost potential for at least two of a plurality of manufacturing factors for manufacturing the part, wherein the plurality of manufacturing factors includes: labor rates, material costs, overhead costs, capital costs, fabrication waste rates, uptime for equipment utilized to manufacture the part, and yields of manufacturing the part;

generating an ought-to-be cost for the part from at least the lowest cost potential for the at least two manufacturing factors;

determining a purchase price with at least one supplier while utilizing the ought-to-be cost.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of modifying the lowest cost potential for at least one of the plurality of manufacturing factors and generating an updated ought-to-be cost for use in discussions with a supplier.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the steps of determining a lowest cost potential and combining are performed by a computer program.

18. (New) A method comprising the steps of:

identifying and quantifying the lowest cost potential cost components of a part , wherein the cost components include costs related to at least one of material, labor, capital, machining, and overhead;

totaling the lowest cost potential cost components of the part, resulting in an ought-to-be cost for the part;

engaging in cost-driven discussions with a supplier to obtain an agreement with the supplier to provide parts at a price that is based upon the ought-to-be cost.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the cost components relate to at least one of a design for the part, manufacturing practices, supply chain management techniques, labor rates, uptimes, and yields.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of establishing a database that contains the lowest cost potential cost components and utilizing a computer program to obtain the ought-to-be cost for the part.